



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/654,993	09/05/2003	Hans Sauer	35211/41473	6681

7590 11/17/2005
BARNES & THORNBURG
750 17TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

PARSONS, THOMAS H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1745

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/654,993

Applicant(s)

SAUER, HANS

Examiner

Thomas H. Parsons

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Malay (6,183,902).

Claim 1: Malay in Figure 6 discloses a cell comprising:

a housing having a cover (24), an anode cup (1), and a sealing ring (34), the housing accommodating at least one anode (22); and

the cover (24) accommodating at least the cathode (26) and separator (28), and with the sealing ring, forms a preassembled unit inserted into the anode cup. See col. 5: 5-col. 6: 19.

The recitation “a gas generating cell” has been considered and construed as a statement of intended use, however, because the cell of Malay is structurally the same as that instantly claimed, it would inherently be capable of providing a gas generating cell.

Claim 2: Malay in Figure 6 discloses a cover (24) constructed as a deep-drawn part (i.e. it is structurally the same as instantly disclosed) made of a sheet metal (a conductive material) having a cylindrical section (46) and a bottom (36) closing off the cylindrical section at one of its ends and around the center of the bottom, a centric hole (50). See col. 5: 5-col. 6: 19.

The recitation “which permits an exiting of gas from the gas generating cell” has been considered, and construed as a statement of intended use, however, because the hole of Malay is

Art Unit: 1745

structurally the same as that instantly claimed, it would inherently be capable of permitting an exiting of gas from the gas generating cell.

Claim 4: Malay in Figure 6 discloses an anode cup (1) constructed as a deep-drawn part (i.e. it is structurally the same as instantly disclosed) made of a sheet metal (a conductive material) and is filled with an anode material (22). See col. 5: 5-col. 6: 19.

Claim 5: Malay in Figure 4 discloses an anode cup (1) having a cylindrical jacket (4) in which a ring slip (14) is constructed which has a slightly larger inside diameter than an outside diameter of the preassembled units, so that a preassembled unit can be fitted from above into the anode cup (col. 5: 14-16).

Claim 7: The rejection of claim 7 is as set forth above in claim. See col. 3: 47-col. 4: 16.

Claim 10: Malay discloses one such cell comprising a battery (col. 1: 15-20 and col. 6: 9-10).

Claim 13: Malay in Figure 6 discloses a nickel screen which the Examiner has construed as a cathode disk (col. 5: 66-col. 6: 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malay as applied to claims 1 and 7 above.

Claims 3, 9 and 12: Malay in Figure 6 discloses a cylindrical section having an upstanding peripheral wall (46) and a sealing ring (34) pressed over the wall (34), the sealing ring having a groove (44) for receiving the wall (46).

Art Unit: 1745

Malay does not disclose a cylindrical section radially shaped or flanged over an interior of the anode cup and a sealing ring pressed over the flange. However, it would have been an obvious design choice to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the cylindrical section with a flanged section, since the Applicants have not disclosed that this particular shape provides any criticality and/or unexpected results and it appears that the invention would perform equally with the cylindrical section and seal as taught by Malay, wherein the cylindrical section and seal combination of Malay would obviously have provided a preassembled unit.

Claims 6 and 8: Malay in Figure 6 discloses an air distribution membrane (32) which covers a ring groove in a bottom of the cover (24), and a cathode (26) having a separator coating (28) and adapted to an inside diameter of the cover (24). Malay does not disclose a nickel foam which cover a ring groove in a bottom of the cover. However, it would have been an obvious design choice to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the air distribution membrane with nickel foam, since the Applicants have not disclosed that this particular material provides any criticality and/or unexpected results and it appears that the invention would perform equally with any air distribution membrane material such as that taught by Malay.

Claim 11: Malay on col. 6: 5-10 discloses zinc but is silent as to a zinc gel. However, it would have been an obvious design choice to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the zinc with a zinc gel, since the Applicants have not disclosed that this particular material provides any criticality and/or unexpected results and it

Art Unit: 1745

appears that the invention would perform equally with any zinc composition such as that taught by Malay.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas H. Parsons whose telephone number is (571) 272-1290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Thomas H Parsons
Examiner
Art Unit 1745
